

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HOWARD PAGE TANQUE VERDE RANCH

ROUTE 8 BOX 515 TUCSON ARIZONA 85710

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1. DEAN KIRKWOOD ASKED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
YOU ASAP - COPY BEING PROVIDED TO PARKER HART.

2. QUOTE:

HEAR HOWARD AND PETE:

THIS HAS TO DO WITH FUNDING OF UNIVERSITY FROM MIDDLE
EAST, PARTICULARLY BY ARAB COUNTRIES. LAST THURSDAY,
JANUARY 2, I MET WITH YOUSUF SHIRAWI (BAHRAINI MINISTER
OF ECONOMICS AND PLANNING AND AUB TRUSTEE), WHO WAS HERE
FOR REGULAR LOCAL TRUSTEES MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 3. AS
YOU KNOW, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACTIVE IN GETTING CONTRI-
BUTIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY FROM INDIVIDUALS IN GULF AREA.
BUT HE NOW PROPOSES SOMETHING ELSE. HOW MUCH OF THIS IS
HIS OWN IDEA I DO NOT KNOW. I BELIEVE HE MUST HAVE HAD
SOME FEED-IN FROM OTHERS IN THE AREA, POSSIBLY BUT ONLY
SLIGHTLY POSSIBLY FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND QATTAR. WHAT
YOUSUF SAYS IS THIS: (A) ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE AREA ARE
VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH WELFARE OF UNIVERSITY. THEY
KNOW ITS VALUE AND WISH IT TO CONTINUE. THEY KNOW THE
AREA'S FUTURE NEED FOR TRAINED MANPOWER AND THAT THERE
WILL BE NEED FOR NEW UNIVERSITIES IN THE REGION. THERE-
FORE IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO LET AN ESTABLISHED AND
PROVEN INSTITUTION CLOSE FOR LACK OF FUNDS. (B) HOWEVER,
THEY RECOGNIZE UNIVERSITY IS LOCATED WITHIN LEBANON, A
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SOVEREIGN NATION AND THEY HESITATE TO COME TO THE AID OF

AN INSTITUTION WITHIN THE LEBANON WITH OFFERS OF SUPPORT WITHOUT GOL'S PARTNERSHIP, INVITATION OR PARTICIPATION. (C) THEY THEREFORE PROPOSE HAVE FRANGIE SEND AN EMISSARY TO OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE ARAB WORLD TO INVITE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION TO A MEETING, PROBABLY IN BEIRUT, TO DISCUSS WHAT COULD BE DONE. YOUSUF SAYS HE DOES NOT EXPECT LEBANON TO GIVE MUCH MONEY ITSELF, THOUGH SOME WOULD BE WELCOME, BUT HE LIKES EMPHASIS ON THE INITIAL ACTION BEING TAKEN BY THE LEBANON.

AT THIS POINT, I SAID WE WOULD BE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN ANY PLAN THAT WOULD OFFER FINANCIAL SECURITY TO THE UNIVERSITY, BUT AS A QUICK REACTION, I SAW TWO AREAS FOR CONCERN. (A) I WAS DOUBTFUL THAT GOL COULD DO WHAT HE WAS THINKING AND I FELT THIS MIGHT, AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME GROUPS WHO ARE PUSHING FOR NATIONAL CONTROL OF ALL FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES WITHIN LEBANON TO MAKE IRREVERSIBLE GAIN. (B) I WAS CONFIDENT THAT AS YOUSUF HIMSELF HAD SAID, ARAB COUNTRIES WANTED AUB TO CONTINUE BECAUSE OF THE METHODOLOGY -- THE AMERICAN METHODOLOGY -- OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING WE OFFER. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THIS COULD BE CHANGED UNDER THE GRADUAL EXTENSION OF ARAB PARTICIPATION IN THE DIRECTION OF THE UNIVERSITY. CERTAINLY THE DEFINITION OF THAT PARTICIPATION MUST BE VERY CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

MEANWHILE, ELIE SALEM HAD ASKED YOUSUF TO BE A MEMBER OF A PANEL TO TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS AT A SPECIAL ALL-DAY MEETING OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 4 AS PART OF OUR UNIVERSITY PLANNING PROGRAM. YOUSUF SAID HE COULD NOT DO THIS BUT WOULD TALK TO THE FACULTY DURING THE SEMINAR AND URGE THEM TO TAKE UP HIS IDEAS WITH FRANGIE. AT MEETING WITH LOCAL TRUSTEES, SALWA ES-SAID, SHUKRI SHAMMAS, DAVID DODGE AND I BEING PRESENT, YOUSUF AGAIN MADE THE PROPOSAL, ESSENTIALLY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. SALWA AND DAVID RAISED SOME DOUBTS THAT GOL COULD DO WHAT YOUSUF WAS ASKING OF IT. SHUKRI FELT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR FRANGIE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION. BEFORE THIS MEETING YOUSUF HAD SAID TO ME THAT IF SUCH SUPPORT BECAME AVAILABLE, THE ARAB DONOR COUNTRIES

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WOULD NO DOUBT WANT SOME CHANGE IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HE SUGGESTED AN EXACT REVERSAL OF THE PRESENT RATIO OF U.S. AND ARAB MEMBERSHIP. HE DID NOT PUSH THIS POINT, AND I REPEATED THE CONCERNS I HAD EXPRESSED TO HIM BEFORE. THIS MATTER DID NOT COME UP IN THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION IN THE LOCAL TRUSTEES MEETING, BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT IT IS STILL IN YOUSUF'S MIND.

I TALKED TO YOUSUF AGAIN BEFORE THE FACULTY MEETING ON SATURDAY AND URGED HIM NOT TO ASK THE FACULTY TO TAKE THIS TO FRANGIE AS A CAMPAIGN, FOR I FELT MUCH MORE THOUGHT HAD TO BE GIVEN TO THE MATTER AND THAT THIS PERHAPS WAS NOT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT TO GO TO FRANGIE. ON THE OTHER HAND, I FELT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT HE PUT ACROSS HIS FEELINGS THAT THE FACULTY MUST SHOW AS A BODY AND AS INDIVIDUALS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

YOUSUF SPOKE TO THE FACULTY AS AN "OLD BOY," NOT AS A MINISTER OR A TRUSTEE. IT WAS MOSTLY OF HIS PRIDE IN AUB AND THE VALUE OF AUB TO THE AREA. BUT HE DID PRESENT HIS IDEA AND STRESSED THE INITIAL PART HE FELT THAT LEBANON HAD TO PLAY. THIS HAS BEEN TAKEN RATHER BADLY BY MANY OF THE FACULTY AND MANY ARE MUCH CONCERNED OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS ITS IMPLICATIONS.

YOUSUF LEFT IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING WITH THE FACULTY, SAYING HE PLANNED TO SEE ABDULLAH, THEN AL-GHANEM (KUWAITI MINISTER OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY AND AUB TRUSTEE) ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 AND WOULD CALL ME IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM HIM. AS I MULL OVER THIS MATTER, I HAVE MY OWN QUESTIONS: (A) IT IS CLEAR FROM OUR STUDY SO FAR, WE CANNOT MAINTAIN THE PROGRAM HERE AT AUB WITH ONLY THE TRADITIONAL KINDS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND METHODS OF FUND-RAISING.

THIS SUGGESTION OF YOUSUF'S MAY THEREFORE BE THE VERY BREAK-THROUGH WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR. I THEREFORE CANNOT FAIL TO CONSIDER IT SERIOUSLY. (B) IT MUST COME TO US ON OUR OWN CONDITIONS. I DO NOT MEAN TO BE AS BRUTAL AS IT SOUNDS. IT IS SIMPLY THAT TO ACCOMPLISH THE ONE AIM OF THE DONOR COUNTRIES, I.E. TO PRESERVE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN BY AUB THAT HAVE MADE IT SO VALUABLE TO THE REGION, THIS KIND OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND METHODOLOGY MUST BE PRESERVED. THAT, HOWEVER, MEANS IN TURN THAT THE DIRECTION OF THE UNIVERSITY REMAINS AS IT IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IMBUED WITH THAT PARTICULAR SYSTEM OF EDUCATION. IN SHORT, TO ARABIZE THE AUB WOULD DESTROY ITS VERY PARTICULAR USEFULNESS TO THE AREA. (C) I AM AS MUCH WORRIED OVER THE REACTION THAT THIS WOULD HAVE IN THE STATES. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE IS GREAT DANGER THAT AID WOULD ACCEPT THIS FULL SUPPORT FROM THE ARAB WORLD AS THE ANSWER TO ITS LONG-VOICED CRY FOR US TO SEEK OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME AND AS A RESULT WILL CUT THEIR ASSISTANCE TO US TO A TOKEN AMOUNT, ENTIRELY OUT OF BALANCE WITH THE WHOLE. IT WOULD UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BE

DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN TYPE DIRECTION. NO MATTER HOW INTERNATIONALLY OR UNIVERSALLY-MINDED THE ENLARGED GROUP OF TRUSTEES FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD WOULD BE, THEY THEMSELVES WOULD BE UNDER INEVITABLE AND PROBABLY IRRESISTIBLE PRESSURES FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS TO ALTER THE ATRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY. MY CONCERN IS NOT ONLY FOR THE ALTERING OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY, BUT ALSO FOR THE DANGER THAT IT WOULD BE IN FROM THE LIKELY SLOW BUT STEADY SLIDE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES INTO A VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION. TRAINING, OF COURSE, IS OUR JOB, BUT AS A UNIVERSITY IT RANGES FAR BEYOND THAT. THIS, HOWEVER, IS A DIFFICULT POINT TO MAKE TO THOSE WHO ARE GIVING LARGE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SEEING EVERY DAY AROUND THEM A CRYING NEED FOR APPLIED OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING. I DO NOT DENY THIS NECESSITY OF COURSE, BUT THE AUB IS A UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF THIS "SOMETHING MORE." (D) I HAVE NO EVIDENCE FROM YOUSUF FOR THESE CONCERNS EXCEPT FOR HIS DEFINITIVE IDEAS ABOUT THE CHANGE OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD. PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE NONE AT ALL, BUT I CANNOT HELP BUT SEE THAT THERE IS A SETUP HERE WHICH COULD BE GRAVELY ABUSED AND PERVERTED HERE BY ANY GROUP IN THE REGION THAT WOULD FOR WHATEVER REASON WISH TO DO SO.

I HAVE DISCUSSED THESE CONCERNS WITH SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES AND FIND THEY SHARE THESE VIEWS. I HAVE ASKED FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED

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APPOINTMENT WITH FRANGIE ASAP ABOUT THE KUWAIT PROJECT, AS WELL AS THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TYPE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT. THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS TREATMENT YET OF THE FOREGOING, ALTHOUGH I HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE WAS A REPORTER WHO FOUND OUT ABOUT THE MEETING AND WAS PRESENT. I HAVE OBTAINED GODLEY'S HELP IN SENDING YOU THIS REPORT VIA HIS CHANNELS, FOR I CONSIDER IT NOT ONLY EXTREMELY URGENT BUT ALSO BECAUSE I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE YET TO CONSULT WITH FRANGIE, WHO SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THIS FIRST FROM ME. HAPPY NEW YEAR.
END QUOTE.

E. S. WALKER
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

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